

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 17, 2011
MINUTES

PRESENT: Joe Vitale, Diane Ripple, Mary Anderson, Missy Kueht-Becker, Ed Cohen, Don Harris, Shirley Wehmeier, Shari Campbell, Nichole Hunkins, Sarah Badeau, Barb Holtz, Judy Hickey, Servando Benitez, Karen Villereal, Maura McMahon, Lisa Mclean, Pam Groh, Debra Wandsnider

STAFF PRESENT: Pete Slesar, Kathy Mullooly

Diane Ripple called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. She introduced Police Officer Servando Benitez, the City of Waukesha police liaison. Officer Benitez gave some background information and indicated he is a liaison between the Lauer Center, school districts, and various meetings and presentations. Members introduced themselves to Officer Benitez.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe Vitale motioned to approve the minutes of the October 20 meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy Hickey.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale reported that the committee and board met on November 10. They discussed CompassWisconsin Threshold, an organization that helps clients apply for a variety of programs on one application, i.e. Children's Long Term Care Waiver, intensive in home treatment services, Katie Becket, and Family Support Program.

There was an update on Public Health. Their staff is very tight at this time and there is an increase in pertussis.

The County Board passed the budget last Tuesday, with a minimal increase. They will close the juvenile girls secure facility. If looking strictly at the financial aspects, it makes sense. Maura McMahon added that this may be a benefit for the families, as it is harder for a parent to put their child out of the home if they know it's farther away. They discussed intervention and prevention.

Barb asked what the county board did with children's librarian position, and no one had the answer.

Joe shared at the Committee Board meeting information from Barb Holtz's report on Born Learning last month, and the importance of children being prepared and ready to enter kindergarten.

The Board also had to approve wording from the Mental Health Center on the definition of seclusion and restraint.

SSAC REPORT

Missy said they meet at 12:00 today.

AGENCY SHARING

Ed Cohen of Cornerstone Counseling reported that they are a large mental health and substance abuse agency with nine clinics in several counties. Theirs is a full service agency offering services to all ages. Ed shared directories, which also list insurance providers. Sarah Badeau asked if they have a child psychiatrist that accepts T19. Ed answered not presently. There is a nurse practitioner to provide meds. They refer to other agencies at this point for child psychiatry. Missy said they're looking for counselors to work with families with very young children, not necessarily with the child, but with the families having special needs child and dealing with stresses of that. Nichole Hunkins responded that they use Catholic Charities, Natalia Ramirez. Ed answered that they have people who work with families with very young children. Missy asked about OCD diagnosed children, and Ed said there is someone at Rogers who works with teens, or Robyn Miller works with adolescents with OCD. There are some others in the directory. Pam Groh added that Waukesha County has a Child Psychiatrist.

Don Harris of Norris Adolescent Center, provides mental health services for adolescent males, ages 12 – 18 years. An area they have a lot of new energy is youth exiting foster care and teaching independent living. They are currently enhancing those services. The Independent Living Coordinator flyer was shared.

Barb Holtz, Born learning, was brief as she gave a presentation to the group last month. She talked about Parents Place and their many programs and groups. She brought brochures to share. She emphasized life skills for parents' classes and adult anger management. These are parent programs with components for children. Kathy Duffek of Parents Place is also running some Wednesday evening sessions specifically requested by parents. In the spring Barb will do a class on preparing for preschool. She announced their annual fundraising gala is in February at Miller Park in the N.Y.C.E. Club.

Nichole Hunkins, United Cerebral Palsy, stated that this organization is more than their name. They work with people with a variety of disabilities. She works specifically with the respite program. They just received bonus funding to serve families over the holidays. This gives families about 10 hours a month to provide families a break. She shared handouts. There is a signup to receive the newsletters on the website. She explained what they call the Respitality weekend at the downtown Hilton, including water park passes. They get between 60 and 80 weekends from the Hilton per year. They also have a R&R Club, which is a Friday night drop off with the Waukesha Park and Rec Department. They accept up to 30 kids, and they are full this year. They will soon start to sign up for February, March and April. They do take babies.

Lisa McLean, Mental Health Association, reported they are known best for the 2-1-1 First Call for Help line. This offers HHS service information and referral, emotional support, crisis, suicide prevention information. They have a peer support specialist, they are a central access for

a Public Health disaster, have mobile crisis response, and are a no cost counseling center. They are currently partnering with the federal government on preventing teen suicide.

Peter Slesar is the manager of the Adolescent and Family Division at Health and Human Services. He reported the County Executive recently authorized added funding in alternatives to placement, about \$120,000 they can use any way to help keep families intact. Out of home placements are very expensive. This will eliminate the need to engage in red tape to get into certain services. This is a very prudent use of taxpayer funds, avoiding full cost services.

They are also focusing on incorporating more evidence-based practice into their work. Staff are completing training in juvenile cognitive intervention programs for youth in a correctional system. This will give staff expertise and implement it in a non-institutional setting, making it more community based. A pilot project was started with four staff using Practicewise/Common Elements Protocol. A computer based program matches coordinates and factors involved in families and young people, and finds interventions most effective to specific issues. Clinicians Dashboard is an ongoing report card. Data is entered of what the interventions have been and the resulting behavior. Ed Cohen gave input on a cognitive behavior program, which over the years different modalities have worked. Different people meet different criteria. Remember they're people. Some people aren't average.

Karen Villereal, Pregnancy Support reported their agency is merging with Healthy Families. The new name is Safe Babies, Healthy Families. They work with moms prenatally until age five, with the same worker. They hold two fundraisers, currently selling water park passes for country springs. The information and order form are on the website. Also, December 1 in the evening they have Silpada Jewelry and Personal Expressions purses for sale, with snacks and beverages while you shop. The website www.pregnancy-support.org will take you to the new site. Shirley Wehmeier added that the two agencies are being crossed trained, learning the whole array of services. They will have new brochures. There is a lot going on with the merger. They discussed their evidence based outcomes project.

Kathy Mullooly, Shared Services Unit Supervisor reported that her unit supports all of HHS. Some programs are daycare certification, volunteer services, kinship, crisis daycare, and after hours crisis. Daycare certification is working with a marketing firm to promote the use of certified daycare facilities. There are often incidents of child abuse in unregulated daycares. The classes to be certified are fee and they provide support to certified daycares and encourage parents to choose certified daycare. Kathy announced that the new volunteer coordinator is Kara Moore. There was a question about crisis daycare and Kathy said it's free for families who are not qualified for W2 and are having some issues; i.e. teen mom needing daycare to finish school.

Missy Kueht-Becker, LSS and B-3 reported a lot of reorganizing is going on. They provide services from pregnancy to death. The Waukesha building location is adult day service. They have support for senior living. She talked about the Mind Works program for people who have early signs of unusual dementia or early Alzheimer's, which is respite for caregivers and help to keep the client's minds intact. It is self pay. They offer behavioral health in a small clinic, and adoption placement services, both international and domestic. The Bluemound Road location is presently for sale, if anyone knows someone interested in office space. B-3 is housed in the

HHS Center Building and a small location in Menomonie Falls in a childcare center. B-3 is for children with disabilities or have a 25% or more developmental delay. B-3 is undergoing big changes. It's a federally mandated program, called an underfunded mandate. The federal to state funding doesn't match mandates. She talked about the changes in the waiver, and the focus on evidence based programs. There is a teaching and coaching model. They identify the needs of the child and work with the family to find strengths and understanding of what the family can do. Barb Holtz added that B-3 does a lot with Born Learning. The concepts apply to all children's development regardless of disabilities. Another part of B-3 is building community bridges. They have community activities at the YMCA, i.e. baby yoga. They have good outcomes. Waukesha County has been contacted by several other counties to find out how they are doing their B-3.

Shari Campbell, of La Casa spoke. Their mission is to help individuals and families to be self-sufficient. One way is by helping find jobs through their workforce development and job matching. They work with WCTC and other organizations. All services are free or based on a sliding fee scale (household income). They provide free income tax assistance, advise on financial stability and budgeting. She talked about their outpatient mental health and AODA clinic in the Barstow building where they see uninsured clients. They support elderly independence and senior housing. One housing location is a meal site for the senior Waukesha County meal program. They have a weatherization program and energy assistance program. It is a centralized location that people come for everything, looking for referrals and resources. The last program and most important is their focus on education. She talked about the services for the early head start program, daycare and preschool. They also provide respite funding and funding for women living in shelters. There are before and after school programs. La Casa is restructuring their board. The goal is to work independently with school districts. They're hiring some new positions and starting next summer with a revised summer program. It is a ramped up program; what was a recreational program to a more educational program. The Café Esperanza is their restaurant, now open on a limited basis.

Sarah Badeau, Children Service Society of Wisconsin, talked about their special needs adoption services. Milwaukee office offers other services including respite. Waukesha location is just special needs adoption. They're always looking for foster parents who are interested in adopting children with special needs. She talked about national adoption day in November. Eight adoptions were finalized that day.

Mary Anderson, of Waukesha County Public Health Department reported that their walk in services will change. Immunizations and blood pressure screenings will remain in walk in. Other checks, i.e. health checks, cholesterol screenings are moving out of walk in. She talked about international travel vaccines. Free pregnancy tests continue to be offered on a walk in basis. Mary talked about the WIC (Women Infant and Children) program and the integrated clinic with WIC. Children are lead tested. Also, case managers do follow up with positive lead screened children. They provide health check exams for children (vision, hearing, general health check). They have nurses who meet with pregnant women and refer to the appropriate agencies in the community. She reported on dental varnishing, child case management, and the school age parent program. They also have a refugee program for the county, which provides screenings for refugees, i.e. tb tests, and follow up as needed. The Public Health Department

nurses are currently at minimal staffing. Waukesha County has lowest ratio of Public Health nurses to the population in the state. Mary reported on the recent Pertussis outbreaks, some have been immunized and some not.

Pam Groh is a school counselor at a middle school for the last five years. She is here to gather information to take back to the Muskego Norway School District.

Shirley Wehmeier talked about a donation center in the downtown area. After the big flood in the summer when they had to move all donated items to storage lockers, they now were able to rent a downtown location. Moms can earn baby bucks to come a shop. They learn to be self sufficient by not just receiving handouts. They are earned by completing some goals.

Debbie Wandsnider, Hebron House reported they have information at hebronhouse.org website. Hebron House has 30 years helping the homeless and anyone in crisis. They have shelters for any type of family unit. She talked about the safe haven, a seven bed facility for men or women with mental health issues and homeless. Sienna house will be opening soon. They have the cornerstone program, a forty-two apartment facility for clients with developmental disabilities or mental health. Debbie talked about three quarter housing for dual diagnosis clients. They currently have openings. Hillside Apartments are for low income families. There is an extensive case management program she oversees. There are four units in West Bend, including the Main Street program, Shelter Plus Care Program for homeless and mentally ill. She talked about the Jeremy House and Section 8 standards. The Payee Program run by Dianna helps clients pay bills, for which there is a small monthly fee. She explained the social security expediting program for clients with significant issues; people who can't keep up with their diagnosis. They come and sign a consent form and someone helps them collect information to show they have significant issues and track doctors appointments. They do the research to submit to Madison and the time to obtain social security is cut from three years to three months. They are currently looking for an outreach coordinator. She talked about a men's drop in shelter getting started in the building off Northview and Grandview, which is on a bus line. They have community support. The community churches were willing if we couldn't use that building. It is a thirty five bed facility. They are working with the Salvation Army on their overflow.

Maura McMahon, with the Public Defenders Office, reported that as of July 1 the indigency standard has been modified. They had been the same since 1987 and they finally passed Act 164. This ties to W2 standards. She explained qualifications for public defender services. It is different than the county, who bills \$60 per hour. They charge a maximum of \$480 for an entire representation. Maura talked about the juvenile and adult mental health Chapter 51 and 55.

Diane Ripple of the Womens Center stated that she will speak in January as the meeting has already gone over time.

Officer Servando Benitez reported on the city police outreach for youth, ages 7 to 18. He talked about the cops and kids foundation work, which is officers spending time with children, giving them a positive exposure to law enforcement. Servando explained the Badges and Bullseyes and the Cops and Bobbers programs. They are free and lunch is provided. They only require a waiver. They put on eight to ten such events a year.

OTHER

Joe Vitale stated he continues to be amazed at what work goes on in these agencies. Pete Slesar invited all to the 6th annual R.O.K's art show taking place in the board room.

Missy Kueht-Becker is the new chair as of January, 2012.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Maura McMahon motioned to adjourn, seconded by Pete Slesar at 10:23 a.m.

Approved on: 1-19-12
Date